

PROBLEM CHILD I

There are two tokens that have intrigued me and frustrated me for a number of years. I will examine one in this issue.

R.J. Negus is probably Alaska's most famous maverick. Attributed to St. Michael, it has also been suggested it is from Scammon Bay. I will present what I have been told by the cataloguers, and what I have been able to discover. Perhaps by reporting this information some one will be able to ferret out the truth about these tokens.

The R.J. Negus tokens are nicely engraved and struck on heavy gauge aluminum in denominations of 25 and 50 Cents and \$1. In *Alaska Tokens*, Ron Benice states: "trader, circa 1932; previously he was a miner in the Nome area, 1907-15."



In an email, Ron writes: "Richard J. Negus was listed as a trader in St. Michael in the 1932-1933 Alaska Directory and Gazetteer. This is the only match. The rest of the time he was a miner or not visible. The trouble was, the tokens looked more appropriate to the 1898-1915 period....I deliberately mentioned his earlier presence in Nome as a miner in the book to

indicate he had been in the area much earlier (and might have had an earlier business venture)."

Kaye Dethridge found a reference to Negus in Scammon Bay, but cannot at this time find that information.

The 1900 census lists two Negus' in Alaska:

Israel O. (birth year 1867 in Iowa) in St. Michael
Richmond J. (birth year 1859 in Missouri) in Nome.

The 1910 census again lists Richmond J., this time in Kougarak.

Commercial directories show the following:

I.O. (Israel O.) as a miner in Dawson and Teller City in 1901.
Richard J. **Negres** as a miner in Behring City (near Teller) in 1901 (presumably a spelling error)
Richard J. as a miner in Nome in 1907
R.J. as a miner in Nome in 1911-12.



The Social Security Death Index lists only one R.J. Negus, born in 1934 and died 1989, . There is also a Richard, born 1930 and died 1983. Both are obviously too late and do not match the birth year in the census reports to be the R.J. Negus of the token. Of the 363 death records in the SSDI, none seem appropriate. There is no listing for a Richmond. Our subject likely died before the beginning of Social Security.

And there the trail ends! So our challenge for our readers is to see what they can find.

Next, *PROBLEM CHILD II* will examine the evidence for Joseph H. Rutlader, Traders, Alaska.

EDITOR'S COMMENTS

In the course of publishing this newsletter, I occasionally hit a low-energy level. This is when I am just not excited to be doing it, months it is a chore. The last few months have been like that. Other times, a subject jumps up, bites me in the butt and I get excited again. Hope that you enjoy it as much as I do.

Well, this month I am excited again. *problem Child I* was fun, and I can't wait to do the next one. And there is a third article that, while not a *problem Child*, is a bit of a mystery, that will be fun also. Frankly, we are not making enough \$\$\$ to do this if it weren't fun!

So, look for *problem Child I I* next month unless some one else wants to write an article ;)

As some of you know, I am serving on the Alaska State Quarter Commission. Ultimately, we will select the designs that are sent to the U.S. Mint. We have had several meetings, and are now accepting design narratives from Alaska residents. Submission forms can be downloaded at http://www.commerce.state.ak.us/alaska_coin.htm. If you are not on the net, write or call and I will send you the forms you need.

I will be addressing the newly formed Fairbanks Coin Club next week, telling them how to participate in the design program. It is my hope that the members of the club will help spread the word so that we can have a lot of submissions.

To that end, I would like to encourage all of our subscribers in Alaska - Anchorage, Chitina, Cordova, Fairbanks, Haines, Healy, Juneau, Kodiak, Seward, Sitka and Ward Cove to spread the word about the Quarter Design Program. This is an outstanding opportunity for the people of Alaska to show the rest of the country and the world what we think of our state. And it will be in circulation for 30-40 years, and around for 100s!

And finally, I was contacted by Andrew Perala from Hawaii. He is a free-lance writer for Coin World. He would like to hear from Alaska token collectors. His email is APerala@aol.com, his mailing address is P.O. Box 6626, Kamuela, HI 96743, and his phone number is (808) 885-5340. Andy's parents were teachers in the BIA schools in the 60's and they spent some time at Savoonga on St. Lawrence Island!

GREENS CREEK MINE



Greens Creek Mine, Ten Troy Oz. .999 Fine Silver. This is the second type of 10 oz. silver bar we have seen from Greens Creek. See ATC&PN 2003, page 15 for the other.

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PRICES REALIZED

Selected prices realized from eBay:

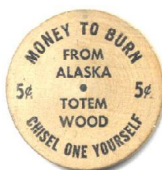
Atka , Golley, 5¢, B-2a	1,377.00
Bethel , NC Co., 50¢, B-2b	OB95.00NB
Chisana , Anderton, 50¢, B-1b	15.99OB
Cordova , Harry & Charlie, 5¢, B-14a	OB50.00NB
Cordova , The Mac Cormac, no denom. B-23a	77.87
Cordova , O'Brien & Simpson, 12½¢, B-29b	310.00
Cordova , Roswog, 6¼¢, B-34b	OB45.00NB
Cordova , V&A Club, 5¢, B-39a	197.50
Cordova , Windsor Hotel Bar, 12½¢, B-41c	OB99.00NB
Fairbanks , Creamer's Dairy, 1 QT, B-13b	OB9.99NB
Fairbanks , Fbks Cigar Store, 5¢, B-17a	124.26
Fairbanks , Hall's Bookstore, 12½¢, B-24b	175.00
Fairbanks , Idle Hour Club, 10¢, B-27b	577.00
Fairbanks , Northern Cigar Store, 10¢, B-40a	OB35.00NB
Flat , Kruhm, 50¢, B-2b	OB40.00NB
Flat , Kruhm, \$1, B-2c with hole	36.00
Fort Yukon , Carrol, \$1, B-2c	481.00
Hawk Inlet , Harris, 5¢, B-1a	95.00OB
Hawk Inlet , Harris, 10¢, B-1b	125.00OB
Haines , Chisel, 5¢, B-4a	376.00
Juneau , Central Hotel, 5¢, B-15a	1,200.00
Juneau , Elks, 12½¢, B-19bi	OB40.00NB
Juneau , Occidental Hotel, 12½¢, B-56c	OB90.00NB
Kenai , Timber Bar, 1 Snort, B-3a	342.00
Ketchikan , Hotel Connell, 12½¢, B-11b, damage	95.00OB
Ketchikan , Log Cabin Bankery, 1 sm. loaf, B-30a	512.00
Ketchikan , Lucky Spot, 10¢, B-32b	OB49.00NB
Ketchikan , Smoke Shop, 5¢, B-59a	407.00
Kivilina , Reindeer CC, 25¢, B-1b	175.00OB
Koyukuk , Laboski, 50¢, B-2b	1,250.00
Koyukuk , Vernetti, \$1, B-3d	OB20.00NB
Latouche , Board of Trade, 6¼¢, B-1a	OB150.00NB
Long , Willis, 25¢, B-2a	OB199.00NB
Long , Willis, 25¢, B-2a	RLOB199.00NB
Nenana , Ghezzi, 25¢, B-3aai	OB25.00NB
Nome , Board of Trade, 5¢, B-8a	228.32
Nome , Lomen Bros., 25¢, B-30a	207.17
Nome , Mulloy, 25¢, B-33a	OB95.00NB
Nome , Polet, 50¢, B-41g	OB25.00NB
Ophir , Ophir Cigar Store, 25¢, B-1a	1,451.00
Palmer , ARRC, 10¢, B-1c	72.35
Palmer , ARRC, 1¢ to 50¢, 5 pcs.	163.50
Port Alexander , Dalsbo, 5¢, B-2a	35.34
Quadra , Southern AK Canning, 50¢, B-1b	1,042.00
Quinhagak , Jean, 25¢, B-1a	35.00OB
Quinhagak , Jean, 50¢, B-1b	45.00OB
Quinhagak , Jean, \$1, B-1c	OB35.00?
Seldovia , Cash Store, 5¢, B-5a	24.95OB
Seldovia , Cash Store, 5¢, B-5a	49.00NB
Skagway , Anderson, 6¼¢, B-1a	42.41
Skagway , Anderson, Compliments of..	1,036.28
Skagway , BPOE, B-2a	68.80
Skagway , BoT, 12½¢, B-4b	95.00NB
Skagway , BoT, 12½¢, B-4b	94.33
Skagway , BoT, 12½¢, B-4e	37.39
Skagway , Boss Bakery, 1 loaf, unlisted	197.50
Skagway , Boughton, 12½¢, B-5a	1,144.00

Skagway , Commissary, 6¼¢, B-6a	326.65
Skagway , Tony Doterio's, 5¢, B-8a	305.01
(Skagway) , The Electric, 50¢ (Ketchikan B-13a)	6.50
Skagway , FOE, 25¢, B-9a	30.33
Skagway , Horseshoe, 6¼¢, B-13a	13.47
Skagway , Horseshoe, 12½¢, B-unlisted	461.00
Skagway , Idaho Saloon, 10¢, B-14a	8.38
Skagway , Kentucky Liquor, 6¼¢, B-15a	67.66
Skagway , McCreedy & Elliott, \$10, B-16g	16.38
Skagway , Mascotte, 5¢, B-17a	OB50.00NB
Skagway , Mascotte, 5¢, B-17a	47.88
Skagway , Mascot, 12½¢, B-17c	51.00
Skagway , Mascot, 12½¢, B-17c	18.50
Skagway , Monogram, 6¼¢, B-18a	260.00
Skagway , P.C. Co., no denom., B-19a	52.00
Skagway , Pack Train, 5¢, B-20a	603.00
Skagway , Seattle Saloon, 12½¢, B-23ai	66.98
Skagway , Shamrock, 12½¢, B-24a	40.00
Skagway , Shooting Gallery, 10¢, B-25aai	76.01
Unga , AK Codfish, Unga Station, 1 meal unlisted	1,363.28
Valdez , CB Buffet, 12½¢, B-4b	38.50
Valdez , CBBuffet, \$1 with nugget, B-4cii	730.00
Valdez , Nizina, 40¢, B-14c	512.00
Valdez , Northern, 6¼¢, B-15a	40.00OB
Valdez , Valdez Hotel, 6¼¢, B-21a	69.99
Yes Bay , Alaska Pac. Fisheries, 10¢, B-3b	45.00OB
Alaska Packers Association coupon book	36.08
Dawson, YT , B&M, 12½¢	90.00OB
Dawson, YT , Hutton & Pearce, 2 Bits	95.00OB
Dawson, YT , Tanana Hotel Pool Room, 25¢	146.94RNM
AK Gold , 1 Pinch round, 1897	205.50
AK Gold , 1 Pinch round, 1897	103.52RNM
AK Gold , 1 Pinch round, 1897	92.11RNM
AK Gold , (2) 1 Pinch round, 1897	RL128.50RNM
AK Gold , 1 Pinch octagonal, 1898	306.50
AK Gold , 1 Pinch octagonal, 1898	199.95
AK Gold , Two Too Wah, 1910	560.00
AK Gold , ¼, 1902. Like Pinch, but w/o Pinch	26.52
AK Gold , 1, 1897, as above, probably brass	26.52
AYPE , ¼ DWT, 1909, PCGS MS-64PL	OB3075.99NB
AYPE , ½ DWT, 1909	153.50
AYPE , ½ DWT, 1909	BIN275.00DNS
AYPE , ½ DWT, 1909	RLOB325.00NB
AYPE , 1 DWT, 1909	155.50
AYPE , 1 DWT, 1909	114.50RNM
AYPE , 1 DWT, 1909	295.00BIN
AYPE , 1 DWT, 1909	BIN325.00DNS
AYPE , 1 DWT, 1909	OB450.00NB
AYPE , 1/2 and 1 DWT, 1909	219.50
AYPE , Box for set of three, no tokens.	316.11
AYPE , Encased Cent, round	53.59
AYPE , medal suspended from gold pan, pick and shovel pin	240.47
FNB of Fairbanks , \$5 red seal, 1902	28,000.00

OB = Opening Bid NB = No Bid RL = relist
RNM = Reserve Not Met R = Reserve
BIN = Buy it now DNS = Did Not Sell

MONEY TO BURN

by David Phillips



As we proceed northward on our “Alaska Cruise” town schedule, we are going to vary slightly from the usual three towns (Ketchikan, Juneau and Skagway) and make a stop in another panhandle town that is now and again substituted for one of the three aforementioned towns.

Sitka was originally the home of Tlingit Indians, and the present name “Sitka” is an European version of the Tlingit’s name for the place - Shee Atika, meaning the outside of the island of Shee.

In 1799, Alexander Baranoff, the manager of the Russian- American Company, established his fur trading company’s headquarters at this site.

Baranoff and his Russian company had virtual control over what we now know as southern and western Alaska. Russian names and culture were imposed on the whole area, and are still in place in many places to this day.

Finally, in 1867, the Russians sold “Alaska” to the United States for \$7,200,000, considered a disaster by the U.S. critics of the day! Since the administrative capital of Alaska had been in Sitka for years, it remained there until 1906 when it was transferred to Juneau.

Sitka, with it’s current population of 8,835, retains much of it’s Russian heritage, with many original Russian built buildings still in place.

The economy is supported by timber, fishing and increasing tourist industries. Again, this town has no “outside” road link and can only be reached by boat or air.

The wood I have chosen to illustrate is printed in both red and black versions. They were issued for advertising purposes by Taranoff’s Sitkakwan Gifts in the mid 1970s. The proprietress, Mrs. Marilyn Taranoff, “offered them free to people who stopped in and mentioned them.” She had advertisements in the Milepost, a travel and driving guide to Alaska, and in an Alaskan Travel Guide.

The wood is a “Wooden Trade Kopeck” featuring the



double headed Russian eagle on one side, and Mrs. Taranoff’s “Little Drook” mascot on the other. Unfortunately I haven’t been able to find out how many were produced nor how long they were given out.

Mrs. Taranoff also issued a leather kopek in 1970 in pressed leather. More information on this token can be found in the October 1989 issue of ATC&PN.

I am aware of 15 different woods from Sitka. Of these, 9 have variations. So, the 15 different woods, with 15 variations equal a total of 30 Sitka woods.

ANTARCTIC FANTASY



Fred Zinkann is at it again, and this time he out did himself!

Purporting to be from Adelie Land, part of the French and Southern Antarctic Territory, this 25 Francs pieces is 25mm, and struck in silver, titanium and iridium. His ad on eBay states that iridium is the densest of earthly metals, and the dies broke after striking only 4.

And speaking of fantasies -

The London Mint (a private mint) has minted “coins” for Gough Island and Nightingale Island, islands in the Tristan da Cunha group. Gough has a manned weather station, and Nightingale has no permanent residents. People from Tristan da Cunha visit Nightingale to gather eggs.

I contacted the Administrator of Tristan da Cunha, Mr. Mike Hentley and was informed “we do have a local law which enables the Governor to approve the issue of coins commemorating notable events of importance to Tristan, and as such coins become legal tender here.”

BONNIFIELD'S *BANK SALOON*

This past fall, we received an email from an antique dealer inquiring about the bracelet below. It was to be in a local auction. Being a collector of Yukon tokens, I was quite excited. Several emails were exchanged, and then I heard nothing. I emailed again, inquiring how to bid. Again I heard nothing. I emailed bids, hoping that they would at least be entered. And I heard nothing. So, out there, some where, is another Bonnifield Bank Saloon gambling chip from Dawson.

Now, until this specimen showed up, in the company of other chips, I was a skeptic as to the authenticity of the Bonnifield chip.

While this does not totally convince me of the authenticity of the Bonnifield chip, I am pretty close.

Does anyone recognize the other chips, and does anyone know what happened to the bracelet?

Ed. note: The scans were originally on a black background and we did our best to eliminate it (some speckles are still noted) to save on toner!



MILITARY CHALLENGE COINS



ANCHORAGE: Armed Services YMCA of Alaska, 28th annual Salute to the Military, 2005. 51mm, multi-colored enamel on bronze.



KEFLAVIK, ICELAND: 56th Rescue Squadron, Friends in Low Places. About 38mm, bronze.



KEFLAVIK, ICELAND: First Class Association, First to Lead. About 44mm, black, white and yellow enamel on bronze.



KEFLAVIK, ICELAND: 85th Group; HQS, CES, MSS, MXS, DS, SFS and ACS. About 38mm, red, white, blue and yellow enamel.



KEFLAVIK, ICELAND: Hospital Corpsman Ball, 107 years of pride and patriotism, 1898-2005. About 38mm, red, white and blue on bronze.



KEFLAVIK, ICELAND: 932nd Air Control Sq., Arctic Watch. About 38mm, red, white, light blue, dark blue, black, green and yellow enamel.



KEFLAVIK, ICELAND: NCTS Iceland First Class Petty Officers Association. About 44mm, red, white and blue on bronze.



KEFLAVIK, ICELAND: 932nd Air Control Squadron, Arctic Challenge. About 38mm, red, white and blue enamel.

PAPER POTPOURRI



ANCHORAGE: Grizzly's Gifts, 10% off. Brownish red on light green paper, 228 x 101mm (submitted by David Phillips).



ANCHORAGE: Kid Zone, 10 tokens free with admission. Black on yellow paper, 140 x 70mm (submitted by Ken Rieck).

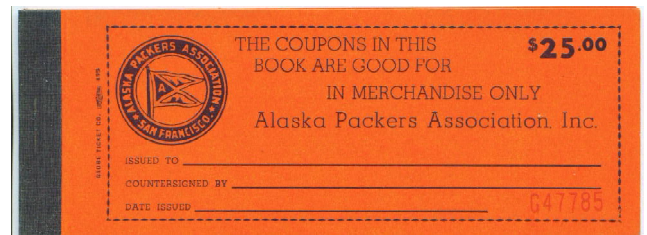


DENALI: McKinley/Denali Salmon Bake, \$1/50¢ off. Black on light green, 137 x 32mm (submitted by David Phillips).

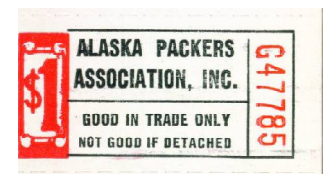
FAIRBANKS: First National Bank of Fairbanks, \$1, B-20a. 1907 Clearing House Certificate, previously unillustrated. PR - \$7475 Lyn Knight Auction. Illustrated at the top of the right column.



WHITEHORSE: Mac's Dollar, good at Paradise Alley Gifts, Murdoch's Gem Shop, No Gold Gallery, Maximilian's Gold Rush Emporium and Mac's Fireweed Books. Purple on lavender, 139 x 64mm.



ALASKA: Alaska Packers Association \$25.00 coupon book comprised of: (15) \$1 black on white; (15) 50¢ black on red; (10) 25¢ Black on yellow. All with denomination and serial number in red. Cover is black on orange.

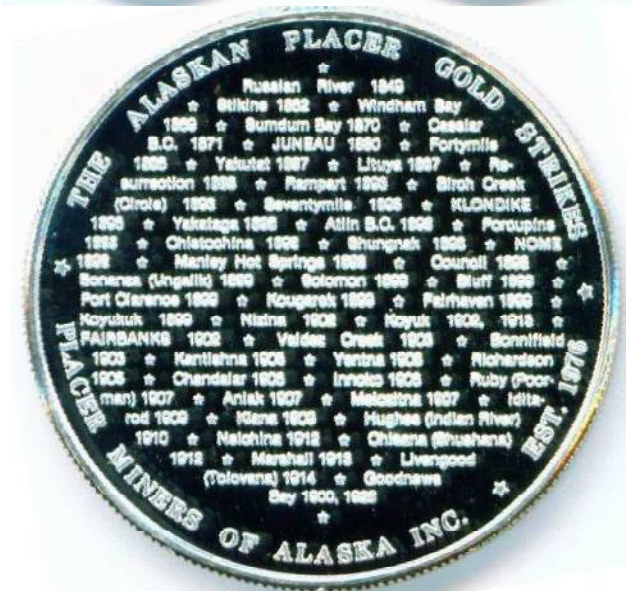


FOR THE RECORD



FAIRBANKS: Fairbanks Daily News-Miner Christmas 1 oz. silver: 1995, 1996, 1997, 2000, 2005. We had not seen these previously.

ALASKA GOLD RUSHES!



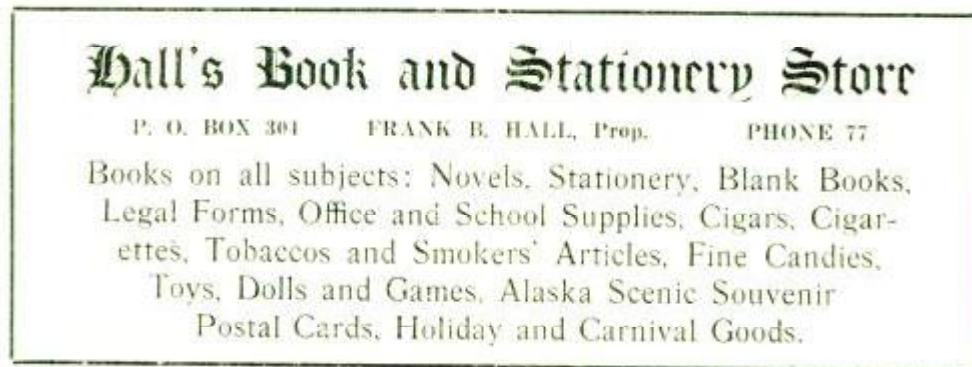
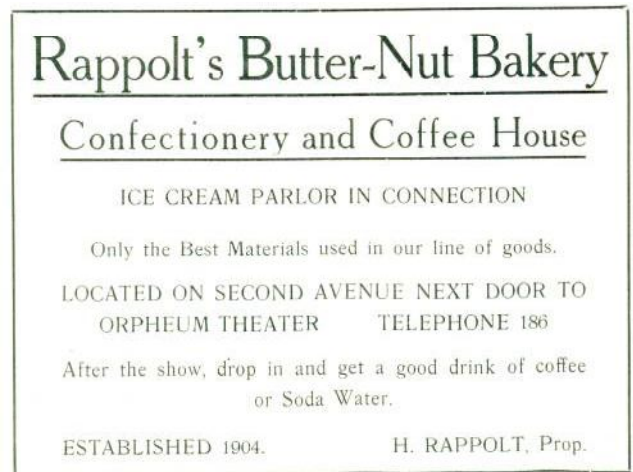
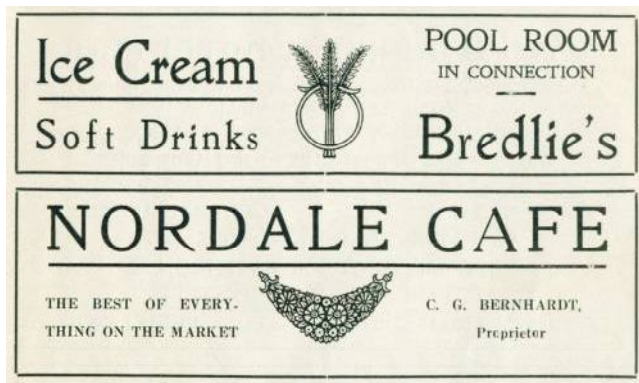
Issued by the Placer Miners of Alaska, Inc., this medal has a tremendous amount of Alaska history, listing all the major and some minor gold rushes, including a few in Yukon and BC. Very hard to find, we acquired a small quantity and offer them for **\$30.00** postpaid.

MAMMOTH ERROR!



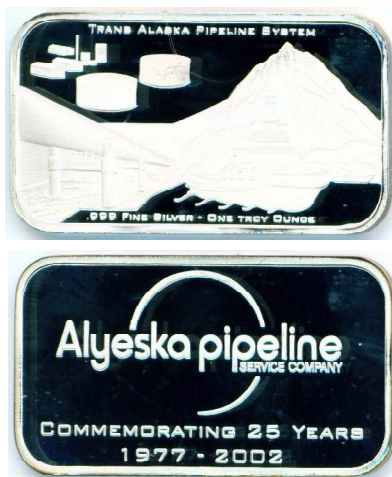
We struck medals for the University of Alaska Museum years ago. When we did the woolly mammoth, the engraver took liberties with the design and changed the species (left above). Differences can be seen on the tusks and top of head. Only numbers 501 to 791 were struck from this die (and possibly some lower numbers to go in gold and silver sets). Only two in stock for **\$50** or **\$60** for one of each type, postpaid.

ADS FOR FAIRBANKS TOKEN ISSUERS



The above ads are from Ursa Major, 1915, yearbook for Fairbanks High School.

1 OZ. SILVER INGOTS



Scarce silver ingot commemorating 25 years of the Trans-Alaska Pipeline, issued by Alyeska Pipeline Service Company. The obverse features a view of the pipeline, a tank farm and a boat. Only 1 available - **\$25.00** postpaid.



Pat of the Hamilton Mint "America's Greatest Events," this ingot notes the purchase of Alaska. A lot of thought went into the text as Alaska was purchased "for slightly more than \$7,000,000." They could use the actual number? Despite this, the obverse does have a nice dog sledding scene, hard to see in the scan. Only 1 available - **\$18.00** postpaid.